

## The Watchman and Southron.

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—BY—  
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SUMTER, S. C.

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

### OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The Sumter Schools have been for twenty years the town's greatest asset and have been the means of attracting to Sumter a large percentage of the present population, a great many families having removed from other places to make their homes here on account of the educational advantages afforded by the schools. But now the schools have become an asset of great value in another way. As a means of securing publicity of the most desirable sort the schools have come into prominence in consequence of the comments of United States Commissioner of Education Claxton on the excellence of the system and the remarkable results accomplished by Superintendent Edmunds. The attention of school and college men, prominent editors and others interested in educational affairs has been attracted by Dr. Claxton's bulletin on Sumter schools and newspapers and educational journals from Boston to California are commenting editorially on the "remarkable and unusual" work of Superintendent Edmunds.

The people of Sumter—the majority of them at least—do not appreciate fully the value of the school's system as an educational institution or as an industrial asset. We have seen the town grow and the school enrollment increase at an even greater pace, but few have stopped to inquire whether the growth of the schools was merely incidental to the growth of the town, or the growth of the town, in a measure, the direct result of the excellence and reputation of the schools. We have long entertained the belief that the town owes more to the schools than the schools to the town, that more people of the desirable sort have come to Sumter to live on account of the schools than for any other reason. Heretofore the reputation of the schools has been mainly local, confined to Sumter and adjacent counties, although it has been a matter of comment that Sumter had one of the best systems of public schools in the State. Dr. Claxton's bulletin, however, has put the stamp of official approbation on the Sumter schools and today the schools and Superintendent S. H. Edmunds have a nationwide reputation for remarkable and unusual achievement and exceptional efficiency. Dr. Claxton's recognition of the value of the work that has been done by Supt. Edmunds is gratifying to everybody in Sumter, who will all agree that Dr. Claxton has not overestimated the importance of the personality of the superintendent in assigning to him a large share of the credit for the remarkable record. The school system of Sumter is almost entirely the work of Mr. Edmunds who has given to it seventeen years of unremitting thought and labor. He has had the loyal support and cooperation of a broadminded and far-seeing board of education and the confidence of the community, but he has made the plan and supervised the work. Success has rewarded his efforts and he is entitled to the credit.

Mr. J. N. Marshall, of Los Angeles, Cal., is visiting his mother, Mrs. W. Y. L. Marshall. He was a resident of Sumter from 1890 to 1895 and the many friends he then made are glad to see him again and to learn that he has prospered in the far West. Mr. Marshall lived for ten years in Phoenix, Arizona, the center of the alfalfa country and is an enthusiastic believer in alfalfa as a money crop. The fact having been established by successful experiments that alfalfa will grow and produce large crops of first class hay in Sumter county, Mr. Marshall is of the opinion that the farmers here are neglecting a great opportunity to increase their profits—that they are sleeping over a gold mine.

When you buy from the merchant who advertises in this paper, tell him you saw his ad. He will appreciate your interest.

### COUNTY TEACHERS MEET.

Interesting Talks Made by County Teachers and by Miss Rogers.

The meeting of the Sumter County Teachers' Association was held at the Hampton school building Saturday and a most interesting session held. An attractive program had been arranged for the occasion and was carried through with much satisfaction and instruction to the teachers present.

The meeting was called to order shortly after noon by President J. H. Haynsworth and was opened by a song by Miss Eva Kingman, the accompaniment being played by Miss Gertrude Knight. A talk on "How to Teach Grammar" was made by Miss Lipscomb, which was most interesting and highly instructive to the teachers.

Instrumental music was next furnished by Miss Louise Carson which was followed by a paper on "Primary Methods" by Miss Lucy Pugh of the Bethel School. This was listened to with the greatest attention and was full of good advice to the teachers of the little children. Another solo by Miss Kingman was next on the program, after which Miss Lizzie Rogers, State President of the South Carolina Rural School Improvement Association, made a talk on the work of the supervisor in the rural schools which was the feature of the meeting.

Miss Rogers talked on her work in Marlboro county as a supervisor of rural schools. She told of how she assisted in everything, from the choice of teachers by the trustees, the building and arrangement of schools and advised the teachers of those things which would help them in their work and aid them in keeping the children interested in school and in learning the lessons which the teacher wished to impart. Her talk lasted about twenty minutes and was heard with the greatest interest.

In closing Dr. Haynsworth stated that he felt that the meeting had been of practical benefit to the teachers and he hoped that in the future the attendance would continue to be good and the interest taken by the teachers as great as at this and the first meeting of the year.

### PLEASE WASTED AN OPPORTUNITY.

Mississippi Declares Governor Let Pass Opening to Teach Uninformed Nation Truth Concerning South.

Jackson, Miss.—Declaring that if one of his immediate relatives had been a victim he might have "gone to extremes which would have shocked civilization to punish the brute," United States Senator-elect William K. Vardaman, former governor of Mississippi, tonight commented on the mob law speech delivered by Governor Cole L. Blease of South Carolina before the recent governor's conference at Richmond.

"Thousands of good law-loving, home-building, God-fearing white men, both in the North and in the South, down deep in their hearts harbor a feeling toward the black rapist close akin to the sentiment expressed by Governor Blease," said Senator-elect Vardaman. "I have been governor of Mississippi and was called on repeatedly to enforce the law, and I did it as no other governor before or since in the South ever has done to protect the black despoiler of the white man's home. And yet I felt, when doing it that if one of my loved ones had been the victim, that I would have gone to extremes that would have shocked civilization to have punished the brute."

"A splendid opportunity was lost by the governors of the Southern States in the Richmond Conference to teach the uninformed nation the truth regarding the anomalous condition existing in the South, which condition made it possible for Governor Blease to make the extraordinary speech accredited to him. Instead of commenting on and condemning the ebullition of temper manifested on the part of the South Carolina executive, it would have been better to have brushed aside his intemperate utterances with an expression of deprecation, if they felt like it, and then proceed to explain to American people the reason."

The cold weather and the Christmas season are productive of many fires and every household and property owner in the city should do all in his or her power to prevent fires in the city during the next few weeks, an especial warning being necessary at this time because the danger from fires caused by the children's fireworks being greater than at other seasons of the year. The local fire department has everything in readiness in case of fire, but this is necessary as a preventative measure and not because the department wants fires to occur. Clean yards will do much to prevent fire from the children's toys and clean chimneys will to a great extent avoid the liability of fires during the cold weather.

## FARMERS' UNION NEWS

Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers.

(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President S. C. Farmers Union.)

### Some Random Thoughts.

This has been a busy week, and with conferences in Columbia and Raleigh, and speaking trips to points near Columbia, quite a good bit of work has been done. The North Carolina State Union made a fine impression. They are 50,000 strong in the old North State, and have quite a number of enterprises on foot.

When I left the hall last night Mr. Cromer of Danville, Va., was organizing the Tobacco farmers for establishing dry prizes where it can be prepared for export. I want to get him down to Florence or Lake City soon to organize the Pee Dee tobacco growers on this marketing system.

As the readers of this paper will see by the daily papers I have secured the midwinter conference of the National Union for January 30th. This will be almost as big a meeting as the annual meeting. Mr. Barrett, Mr. Davis, and all the national officials will attend, and numerous State officers as well as private members. Also Mr. Poe of Progressive Farmer, and I hope Sir Horace Plunkett.

Our local and county unions must turn out in force and put us in possession of the facts as to their business doings so I may properly introduce them.

E. W. D.

### LAD KILLED BY AUTOMOBILE.

Distressing Accident in Greenville. Victim Prescher's Son.

Greenville, Dec. 14.—Irving, the 10-year-old son of the Rev. John W. Wrenn, a struggling country minister and student of Furman University, was run down by an automobile on Augusta street this afternoon and killed.

The combined efforts of the city police and the county authorities to ascertain the slayers of the child have come to naught, as the driver of the car, when he saw that he had run over the child, applied more power to his machine and sped away. Two men and three women occupied the car. "I wonder if we have killed him," exclaimed one of the women passengers, as the machine passed over the boy, but they did not stop to satisfy her curiosity. She and the driver of the car were seen to look back at the bleeding form lying on the street, but that was all the notice taken of the incident by them.

A merchant ran into the street and picked the little fellow up and called for physicians. The lad was placed in a machine and rushed to the hospital, but died on the way. His father had gone into the country, where he was to fill an engagement at one of his churches tomorrow. When the lifeless body of the child was carried to the home, where the mother and three younger children were alone, it was the first news they had had of the tragic accident. The mother swooned at sight of her dead boy and at dark was in a critical condition from the shock. The child's skull was frightfully broken and torn by the blow from the automobile.

### MOTORISTS CONFESS.

D. B. Jenkins and Son, Clyde, Admit that Irvin Wrenn Met His Death Under Their Car.

Greenville, Dec. 15.—After a sleepless night of reflection on the fact that the life of an innocent child had been ground out beneath the wheels of his speeding automobile and that he had not passed to lend succor to the dying boy or speak a word of regret to the heart-broken parents, D. B. Jenkins, a well-to-do farmer of the lower section of the county, and his 16-year-old son, Clyde, came to the city this morning and surrendered to the sheriff as the parties guilty of the death of little Irvin Wrenn, who was fatally injured on Augusta street Saturday afternoon by their automobile.

Jenkins stated that he had his wife, two daughters and his son in the machine at the time of the accident. The son was driving the car and said that he had run over the boy and injured him fatally. When he asked as to why they did not stop, he said that he wanted to stop, but in the car became frightened and insisted on his speeding.

At home, it is said, to a neighbor's house after over, and that the son were advised to

come to the city Sunday morning and surrender. The two drove to town this morning and went to the home of the dead child. Upon finding that the family had gone to bury the child, Jenkins and his son started back toward the city, when they were met by the sheriff and the chief of police and taken into custody.

The police entered charges of reckless driving and exceeding the speed limit against Clyde Jenkins, and he was released on bail in the sum of \$50. The county authorities will not take any action against the parties until after the coroner's inquest, which will be held Monday afternoon.

### Hot Supper at Dalzell.

A hot supper will be given on Friday evening, December 20th, at the home of Mr. Jno. M. Parker at Dalzell, for the benefit of the parsonage. Come and help us.

A party of hunters from here who have been in the swamp for a couple of weeks returned to the city Saturday night. They report having had good luck. Three deer, a wild turkey gobbler, as large as any ever seen in these parts, an alligator with about forty young ones and squirrels were killed by members of the party.

### Real Estate Transfers.

A. H. Dibble, Sampson James and Thomas James to W. B. Bruns, their interest to lot in city \$150.

A. Johnson Andrews and Emma Andrews, to Jas. R. Ligon, alley on Sumter street, \$50.

J. L. McCallum to Reba Spann, lot on Liberty street, \$2,500.

Isabel D. Moise to E. Warren Moise, Jr., lot on Broad street, \$5.00 and other considerations.

Jas. D. Blanding to P. Moses, Jr., lot on Sumter street, \$200.

W. B. Boyle to executors of estate of Marion Moise, one-sixth undivided interest to lot on Hampton avenue, \$1,400.

Z. T. Prescott to J. R. Prescott, his interest in tract of 105 acres, \$300.

Master to J. R. Prescott, interest in 105 acres, \$300.

Mary S. Nelson to Claremont Lodge No. 186, lot of one-half acre, \$40.

Mrs. Annie Lee to W. R. Allen and F. M. Allen, 40 acres in county, \$1,400.

J. R. Hodges to H. J. Harby, 15 acres in Privateer township, \$5.00 and other consideration.

Fifteen cents per pound is the top of the market for turkeys and some have sold for less.

### Death of Mrs. W. W. Anderson.

Mrs. Mary V. Anderson, widow of the late Mr. W. W. Anderson of Stateburg, S. C., died in Montgomery, Ala., at one A. M. last Sunday in her 80th year. Mrs. Anderson had partially regained her health from a severe illness last winter and was at the time of death visiting her daughter, Mrs. Nelson in Alabama.

Mrs. Anderson leaves surviving her five children, two sons, Messrs. W. W. Anderson of Lexington, Ky., and B. M. Anderson of Richmond, Va., and three daughters, Mrs. Mark Reynolds of Sumter, Mrs. Saunders of Stateburg and Mrs. W. B. Nelson of Montgomery, Ala.

The funeral services will be held at the Church of the Holy Cross, Stateburg, tomorrow, Wednesday, afternoon at half past twelve o'clock.

Mr. W. W. Anderson reached Sumter last night to attend the funeral tomorrow and Mr. W. B. Nelson will arrive tonight with the body from Montgomery. Mrs. Nelson reached the city this morning.

The new hotels are progressing toward completion and the traveling men will find Sumter ready to entertain them when they come around on the spring trip.

### Our Prize Contest

1st Prize—Dinner Set.  
2nd Prize—Dinner Set.  
3rd 10 prizes each of a 4-lb Pound Cake with Royal Icing.

Present Your Labels on

DECEMBER 20th

At The

NEW YORK BAKERY.

## Xmas Orders:

4 lb. Pound Cake with Royal Icing . . . One Dollar  
4 lb. Fruit Cake with Royal Icing . . . One Dollar

Phone 97

and place your order NOW

SAVE THE BUTTERNUT LABELS FOR A NICE "DINNER SET."

## Xmas! Merry Xmas!

THE season that brings all mankind, the whole world over, to a realization that it is a time of rejoicing, and to be happy, we must make others happy. Hence, the beautiful custom of exchanging gifts has grown so popular that we have come to look upon it as a necessary pleasure.

Our store is crowded with just such articles as the practical shopper is looking for, either for friends or family.

### Neck Wear.

Just received a shipment of all the newest things.

For both ladies and gents.

### Furs! Furs!

Baby sets, scarfs, throws and muffs.

Matched sets in black, brown, greys and white.

### Gloves and Handkerchiefs.

Our ladies' kid gloves at \$1.00 the kind that wear. Handkerchiefs in all grades and styles. Plain and embroidered.

### Always Serviceable.

Table Linens, Napkins, Towels, Bed Spreads, plain and cut corners fringed. All full size.

### Ready for Use.

Tapestry table covers, Couch covers, Center pieces, Bureau scarfs, Some very handsome drawn work covers.

### Toilet Articles.

A full line of Colgate goods, none better. Powders, Soaps, Dentifrice, Perfumery.

### Comforts and Blankets.

Our Down Comforts and Tar Heel Blankets are Warm Numbers.

# O'Donnell & Company.